

REMARKS

The Office Action dated February 9, 2005 has been received and carefully noted. The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-24, 31-48 and 51-55 are pending in this application and are submitted for consideration.

Examiner Interview

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the Examiner for conducting an interview with the Applicant, Mr. Amit Jaipuria, and his representative, Mr. Sam Huang on April 4, 2005.

As indicated in the Interview Summary report (paper no. 40), the claims of the present application were successfully distinguished from the cited prior art of Junkin (U.S. Patent No. 4,493,717) and Slaughter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,643,650).

Applicants further appreciate the follow-up telephone interview conducted on April 6, 2005, which resulted in successfully distinguishing the claims of the present application from O'Neal et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,987,440), a reference suggested and raised during the interview on April 4, 2005.

Claims 1-24, 31-48 and 51-55 Recite Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 1-24, 31-48 and 51-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Junkin (U.S. Patent No. 4,493,717) and Slaughter et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,643,650). In light of the outcome of the Examiner interview dated April 4, 2005, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that each of these claims recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited prior art.

Hence, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.


Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the claims 1-24, 31-48 and 51-55 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited prior art. Applicants also submit that the subject matter is more than sufficient to render the claims non-obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, and therefore respectfully request that claims 1-24, 31-48 and 51-55 be found allowable and that this application be passed to issue.

If for any reason, the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 024430-00001.**

Respectfully submitted,



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